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## Lance Armstrong's lifetime ban could be reduced, world cycling official says

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Lance Armstrong on the podium after winning the 15th stage of the 90th Tour de France on July 21, 2003 (Paolo Cocco/Getty Images)

The Associated Press

Published: 23 January 2014 07:05 PM

Updated: 23 January 2014 07:08 PM

ADELAIDE, Australia — The new president of cycling's world body says Lance Armstrong's lifetime ban for doping could be reduced if he provides information that assists other doping investigations.

Brian Cookson became UCI president in September and established the Cycling Independent Reform Commission which will examine the history of doping in professional cycling and probe allegations the UCI conspired to cover up doping activity.

Cookson said the commission's terms of reference might include an agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency and the United States Anti-Doping Agency to reduce sanctions on cyclists who co-operate with the inquiry.

He said "there will be the possibility of a reduction" in Armstrong's case if he provides information which assists any investigation but stressed the UCI does not have the power to make such a deal.

"It all depends on what information Lance has and what he's able to reveal," Cookson said. "Actually that's not going to be in my hands. He's been sanctioned by USADA."

"They would have to agree to any reduction in his sanction based on the validity and strength of the information that he provided. If they're happy, if WADA are happy, then I will be happy."

Cookson the three members of the commission including Australian Peter Nicholson, a specialist investigator, were insistent their investigation would be thorough and impartial.

"They don't want their own personal reputation damaged by any hint of a suggestion that they've been involved in — let's call it a whitewash," he said.



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1 Comment



Fred Mauney 8 hours ago

It's clear now that the USPS not only had to know the cycling team they were sponsoring was cheating but that they were in no it. Is this an underlying reason why the LA U S Attorney's office stopped it's grand jury investigation? If so would not this mean misconduct of the LA U S Attorney (bribery). The Landis whistleblower lawsuit in DC is now going into the stage where the parties will begin filling interrogatories and discovery motions and some of the defendants have indicated the USPS was involved. Now U S Congressman Darrell Issa can do a real investigation instead of wasting our money on these phony ones and he can issue subpoena's and can swear under oath Lance Armstrong, Thom Weisel, USPS's Ex- Postmaster General John Potter along with the upper management of the USPS which now would include the current Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.